

**REMARKS**

Claims 22-31 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1-21 being canceled, Claims 22-24 being amended, and Claims 25-31 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Auerbach (U.S. patent no. 5,355,371). This rejection is moot with respect to the canceled claims. Applicant submits that the reference is not anticipatory of the new claims.

The present invention, as presently claimed, is directed to a system and method of synchronizing sampling clocks between a plurality of nodes within a group of nodes, in a communication system having a plurality of groups of nodes. As recited in the claims, a node of each group is set as a master clock node, which is responsible for transmitting synchronization packets having group ID information. Nodes in a given group selectively receives the synchronization packet that are identified as belonging to the same group as the receiving node, which then uses the information contained in the packet to synchronize its sampling clock.

Auerbach does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of, in communication system having plural groups of nodes, setting one of the nodes of each group as a clock master node, which sends out synchronization packets containing information that can be selectively received by the members of the respective group to be used for synchronizing their respective sampling clocks. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added claims are not anticipated by Auerbach.

The Examiner rejected Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auerbach in view of Mullaney et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,377,575). This rejection is moot with respect

to the canceled claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the references also do not make obvious the newly added claims.

As discussed above, Auerbach does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of, in communication system having plural groups of nodes, setting one of the nodes of each group as a clock master node, which sends out synchronization packets containing information that can be selectively received by the members of the respective group to be used for synchronizing their respective sampling clocks. Mullaney fails to make up for the deficiencies of Auerbach. Mullaney is directed to correcting data transmission delay times caused by different transmission paths. Mullaney does not teach or suggest synchronizing nodes of a given group of nodes using a clock master node. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that any additional financial relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032028700.

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Respectfully submitted,

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